

STATINTL

Kennedy, Dulles Dispute Nixon

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Staff Reporter
The White House and Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, yesterday denied former Vice President Richard M. Nixon's statement that President Kennedy knew about Cuban invasion plans before the 1960 election.

Mr. Kennedy was told about CIA's support of a Cuban invasion force on Nov. 18, 1960, nearly two weeks after the election, White House press secretary Pierre Salinger said.

Nixon charges in a book entitled "Six Crises," now on sale, that candidate Kennedy knew about the plans and endangered national security with his campaign call for intervention in Cuba.

"Honest Misunderstanding"

In a statement, Dulles said there had been "an honest misunderstanding" as a result of a report Nixon received concerning the briefings Dulles gave the Democratic candidate.

"My briefings were intelligence briefings on the world situation," the former CIA di-

rector said. "They did not cover our own Government's plans or programs for action overt or covert."

In Whittier, Calif., Nixon was advised of the White House statement, and said: "I have no comment at this time, until I have a chance to read the statement. There will be a lot of controversy over the book, I imagine."

When asked about the charge in Nixon's book, Salinger was prepared with a typewritten statement, which said:

"The President does not believe that intelligence briefings are a proper subject of public debate, but in light of the account in Mr. Nixon's book it is necessary to say that the then Sen. Kennedy was not told before the election of 1960 of the training of troops outside of Cuba or of any plans for 'supporting an invasion of Cuba.'"

"Mr. Nixon's account is apparently based on a misunderstanding. Sen. Kennedy received two briefings from Mr. Allen Dulles of the CIA, the first on July 23, 1960, and the second, on Sept. 19, 1960.

"The two briefings covered an overall review of the world situation during which Cuba was mentioned. But Sen. Kennedy was first informed of the operation to which Mr. Nixon refers in a briefing by Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell of the CIA given in Palm Beach, Fla., on Nov. 18, 1960."

Bissell, a former assistant CIA director, was in charge of the Cuban operation.

Candidate Kennedy received a third pre-election briefing on Nov. 2 from Gen. C. P. Cabell, then CIA's deputy chief, but Cuba was not mentioned then, a White House source said.

Nixon said in his book that

he had been one of the strongest supporters of the Cuban operation but was forced to oppose it in public to keep from giving the secret away.

In the fourth Kennedy-Nixon television debate, the GOP candidate called the Cuban proposals of his Democratic opponent "probably the most dangerously irresponsible recommendations" of the campaign.

In that debate, Nixon said that if this country supported such an invasion "we would lose all of our friends in Latin America, we would probably be condemned in the United Nations and we would not accomplish our objectives."

"It would be an open invitation for Mr. Khrushchev to come in, to come into Latin America and to engage us in what would be a civil war, and possibly even worse than that."